



# NEWS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

**ORANGE COUNTY, NY---** On Saturday, September 20, 2008, Occupations Foundation, Inc. 2008 held the "Vision of Hope" and Award Dinner at Anthony's Pier 9 in New Windsor. Friends gathered to honor Sullivan Renaissance and Founder, Sandra Gerry, as the recipient of the 2008 Vision of Hope Award.

Sullivan Renaissance began as the vision of Sandra Gerry who believes that residents can enhance the appearance of Sullivan County while building pride and spirit in their community.

Sullivan Renaissance, now entering its eight year, has grown into a year-round program involving thousands of volunteers from all 15 towns. In addition to grants for beautification efforts like welcome signs and gardens, Sullivan Renaissance works directly with communities to plan and revitalize Main Streets and neighborhoods. These programs involve young people, municipalities, businesses and seasonal communities.

In addition to Sullivan Renaissance, Ms. Gerry has chaired the Sullivan County Community College Foundation's Annual Scholarship Benefit Gala for the last fifteen years, raising over a million dollars in scholarship money. Ms. Gerry is also President of the Beaverkill Foundation, established by her and her husband Alan, to assist charitable causes in Sullivan County. She also serves on the board of the Gerry Foundation, Inc., the family foundation whose mission is to benefit the county economy by developing the world class performing arts center, Bethel Woods, at the site of the original Woodstock Festival in Bethel.

The evening was also a celebration of Occupations, Inc.'s 45 years of service providing programs that include outpatient mental health services, case management, child welfare, emergency services, residential services, and employment opportunities to people with developmental disabilities and individuals recovering from mental illness.

The funds raised through this special event enable the Occupations Foundation to further support Occupations Foundation's capital project for renovation plans for 21 and 23 Grand Street in the City of Newburgh. This capital project supports the services which are essential to addressing the mental health and child welfare needs of the children, families and adults of this high need community. Occupations Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 non-profit recently established to raise funds in support of the programs and services of Occupations, Inc.

"Sandra Gerry has demonstrated outstanding support to the community. Her passion and commitment exemplifies the definition of the Vision of Hope Award, and Occupations is honored to present her with this award," said Tom Glendening, Chairman of the Occupations Foundation Board.

The Occupations Foundation has partnered with Key Bank, Provident Bank and several other community organizations and leaders to sponsor this elegant event. James W. Taylor, Jr., President of Taylor Recycling was chair for this fundraising initiative of the Occupations Foundation, Inc. and Darrell Supak, of Granite Associates, LP, was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

Occupations, Inc., programs include outpatient mental health services, case management, child welfare, emergency services, residential services, and employment opportunities to people with developmental disabilities and individuals recovering from mental illness. Occupations, Inc., also provides an extensive transportation system throughout Orange County. Occupations will celebrate 45 years of services in September 2008. All of Occupations, Inc.'s services can be accessed 24-hours a day, seven-days-a-week, through one toll-free call to the Service Access Center at 1-888-750-2266.

For more information on the Occupations Foundations, Inc., or for information on how you can help, please contact Wendi Chason, Director of Development at (845) 692-4454, ext. 136 or visit the website at [www.occupations.org](http://www.occupations.org).

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